REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

WITH

TABULAR RETURNS OF MORTALITY, &c.,

DURING THE YEAR 1898,

BY

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Fellow of Society of Medical Officers of Health.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT,

1898.

Hexham:
C. ARMSTRONG, PRINTER & STATIONER, MARKET PLACE.

1899.

PAROCHIAL COMMITTEES.

At a Meeting of the Hexham Rural District Council, held on the 8th Day of January, 1895, it was resolved:—

> "That the Parish Council, where there is one, and the Parish Committee, where there is no Parish Council, with the addition in both cases of the District Councillor, or Councillors, for the Contributory Place, be the Parochial Committee."

The following Townships have Parish Councils:

ACOMB.
ALLENDALE.
BROOMLEY.
CHOLLERTON.
CORBRIDGE.
ELTRINGHAM.
HAYDON.
HEDLEY.
HEXHAM LOW QUARTER.
HORSLEY.
HUMSHAUGH.
MICKLEY.
NEWBROUGH.
OVINGHAM.
OVINGTON.
PRUDHOE.
PRUDHOE CASTLE.
SANDHOE.
SHOTLEY LOW QUARTER.
SIMONBURN.
SLALEY.
WALL.
WARDEN.
WYLAM.

ANNUAL REPORT

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HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

GENTLEMEN,

In again laying before you the Annual Report, it will be seen the Tables give the statistics of the Births, Deaths, and Infectious Diseases for the whole of the District, and also for each of the Four Sub-Districts into which it has been divided.

The AREA of the District is 200,977 Acres, and is divided into the Four following, with their Areas:

ALLENDALE SUB-DISTRICT having an area of 51,808 Acres;
BYWELL SUB DISTRICT having an area of 50,547 Acres;
CHOLLERTON SUB-DISTRICT having an area of 50,794 Acres;
HEXHAM SUB-DISTRICT having an area of 47,828 Acres.

The POPULATION of the whole of the District being estimated at 28,485, and the number of

DEATHS during the year having been 441, gives a death rate of 15.4 per thousand; of

BIRTHS there has been 674, which is at the rate of 27.9 per thousand of the population; and of

INFECTIOUS DISEASES there has been 535, for which see Tables and Manuscript.

TABLE I.

Deaths from all causes in the Allendale Sub-District.

Cause of Death.	Under and between Months.												Under and between Years.										Totals.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	1	13
Carcinoma ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3
Convulsions ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
Head ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	6
Heart ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	4	5	...	1	12
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	...	5
Injuries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peritonitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	..	...	..	1	1	...	...	4
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	...	1	...	...	...	9
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tabes Mesenterica	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Old Age ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	2	14
Others ...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	1	9
Totals ...	3	2	...	...	2	1	...	...	4	...	...	1	6	2	4	6	5	2	16	20	8	5	87

TABLE II.

Deaths from all causes in the Bywell Sub-District.

Cause of Death	Under and between Months.												Under and between Years.										Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	
Bronchitis ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Carcinoma ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	2	2	...	9
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	5
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	3	...	3	2	1	...	2	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	16
Diptheria ...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	9
Enteritis ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	..	...	..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Gastric ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Head ..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	1	3	1	1	...	7
Heart ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	2	4	6	1	...	18
Injuries ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	7
Kidneys	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	3
Liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4
Peritonitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Phthisis ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	8	3	..	...	1	.	..	18
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	1
Pneumonia ...	1	1	1	...	1	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	2	1	1	...	...	..	...	..	...	15
Premature Birth ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Scarlat Fever ...	..	1	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	..	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	6
Spinal ...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1
Tabes Mesenterica ...	1	4	...	1	3	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	19
Typhoid Fever ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Old Age ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	14	1	19
Others ...	7	2	2	2	5	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	.	1	...	1	1	1	1	2	2	...	32
Totals ...	11	8	7	3	12	4	5	4	4	1	3	1	29	16	11	18	11	8	13	19	20	1	209

TABLE III.

Deaths from all causes in the Chollerton Sub-District.

Cause of Death.	Under and between Months.												Under and between Years.										Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	9
Carcinoma ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	2	3	..	6
Convulsions ...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa ...	1	...	...	..	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	4
Liptheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	1	..	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	1
Gastric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Head ...	...	...	...	..	...	2	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	..	...	...	1	2	1	...	7
Heart ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	3	1	1	..	5
Injuries ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	1	...	..	..	2
Kidneys ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	1
Liver ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	1
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis ...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	3
Paralysis ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Peritonitis ...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	..	1	...	...	...	..	6
Pneumonia ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	1
Spinal ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Tabes Mesenterica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	..	...	..	...	..	2
Old Age ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	..	1	6	4	11
Others ...	2	...	...	...	.	...	1	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	11
Totals ...	5	..	.	1	...	5	1	1	...	1	3	2	3	3	9	5	2	5	7	11	13	4	81

TABLE IV.

Deaths from all causes in the Hexham Sub-District.

Cause of Death.	Under and between Months.												Under and between Years.										Totals.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	5
Carcinoma ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	4
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Diarrhœa ...	...	1	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Enteritis ..	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	1	...	...	1
Head ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	2	..	...	2
Heart ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	3	1	...	13
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Injuries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paralysis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peritonitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	2
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	..	...	...	5
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Spinal ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Old Age ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
Others ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	1	1	1	...	8
Totals ...	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	3	4	2	8	10	9	8	4	64

TABLE V.

Deaths from all causes in the whole District.

Cause of Death.	Under and between Months last birthday.												Under and between Years last birthday.										Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	
Bronchitis ...	...	..	1	..	3	...	...	..	2	...	1	3	3	1	...	1	1	...	2	7	4	1	30
Carcinoma ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	5	5	7	...	22
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Convulsions ...	2	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	..	...	1	...	2	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	10
Croup ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa ...	1	4	...	...	4	4	1	1	2	...	2	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Diptheria ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	10
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	1	...	..	2	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Gastric ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	..	5
Head ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	2	6	5	2	1	22
Heart ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	1	6	16	15	3	1	48
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	...	6
*Injuries ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	1	3	2	...	...	12
Kidneys ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	4
Liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	4
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	2	...	5	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	9
Paralysis ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	3
Peritonitis ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	1	1	1	...	...	9
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	11	14	7	...	2	1	...	...	38
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	..	2	...	...	...	6	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	21
Premature Birth ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlat Fever ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	6
Spinal ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tabes Mesenterica ...	1	5	...	1	3	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Typhoid Fever ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	4
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Old Age ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	27	11	50
Others ..	11	3	2	2	6	2	3	...	1	1	...	...	1	2	2	4	2	5	6	3	1	3	60
Totals ...	21	14	4	5	17	10	6	4	10	1	6	4	43	27	26	31	21	23	45	59	46	18	441

* Under Injuries are placed all Deaths from other than purely natural causes.

TABLE VI.

Cases of Infectious Diseases in the Allendale Sub-District.

Disease.	Under and between Years last birthday. 1	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65	Totals.
Scarlat Fever ...	...	3	3	4	3	1	...	1	...	15
Diptheria ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Totals ...	...	3	4	4	3	1	...	1	1	17

TABLE VII.

Cases of Infectious Diseases in the Bywell Sub-District.

Disease.	Under and between Years last birthday. 1	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65	Totals.
Scarlat Fever ...	19	66	106	50	19	7	5	...	...	272
Erysipelas ...	2	6	11	5	7	17	4	9	5	66
Diptheria ...	1	12	18	12	2	3	2	1	...	51
Typhoid Fever	1	...	4	3	6	...	2	1	1	18
Continued Fever	...	...	4	1	...	.	...	...	...	5
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Croup ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	23	84	144	71	35	27	14	11	6	415

TABLE VIII.

Cases of Infectious Diseases in the Chollerton Sub-District.

Disease.	Under and between Years last birthday. 1	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65	Totals.
Scarlat Fever ...	...	17	27	13	5	6	4	1	...	73
Diptheria ...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Totals ...	...	20	29	13	6	7	4	2	...	81

TABLE IX.

Cases of Infectious Diseases in the Hexham Sub-District.

Disease.	Under and between Years last birthday. 1	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65	Totals
Scarlat Fever ...	...	1	5	6	2	2	...	...	...	16
Erysipelas ...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
Small Pox ...	...	..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Typhoid Fever	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	1	1	6	6	2	6	...	...	...	22

TABLE X.

Cases of Infectious Diseases for the whole District.

Disease.	Under and between Years last birthday.									Totals
	1	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65	
Scarlat Fever ...	19	87	141	73	29	16	9	2	...	376
Erysipelas ...	3	6	12	5	7	18	4	10	5	70
Diptheria ...	1	15	21	12	2	3	2	1	1	58
Typhoid Fever	1	...	4	3	7	2	2	1	1	21
Continued Fever	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	4
Croup ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	24	108	183	94	46	41	18	14	7	535

BIRTHS.

The Number of Births for the Year is 674, which is a great reduction from that of last Year, being 112 less. The Number of Illegitimate Children has been this year 38, which is exactly the same as last year, and this gives an Illegitimacy Rate of 5·6 per cent, as against that of 4·8 last year. The total Birth Rate for the year being 23·5, as against 27·9 for last year.

TABLE XI.

Births for Allendale Sub-District.

MONTHS.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Totals.
	M	F	M	F	
January	4	2	1	..	7
February ...	...	5	2	1	8
March	2	3	...	...	5
April	4	3	...	...	7
May	3	5	...	...	8
June	4	7	...	...	11
July	3	4	1	...	8
August	6	6	1	1	14
September ...	5	4	...	...	9
October	5	5	1	...	11
November ...	4	4	...	...	8
December ...	3	4	...	...	7
Totals ...	43	52	6	2	103

TABLE XII.

Births for Bywell Sub-District.

MONTHS.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Totals.
	M	F	M	F	
January	16	10	...	...	26
February ...	14	12	...	...	26
March	15	18	2	...	35
April	18	11	...	3	32
May	16	15	2	1	34
June	16	16	...	...	32
July	16	19	...	...	35
August	12	11	...	...	23
September ...	26	18	2	...	46
October	15	14	...	...	29
November ...	17	14	1	...	32
December ...	18	12	...	...	30
Totals ...	199	170	7	4	380

TABLE XIII.

Births for Chollerton Sub-District.

MONTHS.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Totals.
	M	F	M	F	
January	2	4	...	...	6
February ...	2	1	1	...	4
March	6	1	...	...	7
April	3	1	...	...	4
May	5	3	3	...	11
June	4	13	...	...	17
July	1	4	...	1	6
August	4	3	...	1	8
September ...	5	6	1	...	12
October	7	2	1	...	10
November ...	3	6	1	1	11
December ...	5	2	2	...	9
Totals ...	47	46	9	3	105

TABLE XIV.

Births for Hexham Sub-District.

MONTHS.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Totals.
	M	F	M	F	
January	7	5	1	...	13
February ...	1	3	...	...	4
March	4	3	...	1	8
April	1	3	1	...	5
May	3	1	...	...	4
June	3	2	...	1	6
July	3	1	...	1	5
August	4	4	...	...	8
September ...	4	6	...	...	10
October	2	3	1	...	6
November ...	8	5	1	...	14
December ...	1	2	...	..	3
Totals ...	41	38	4	3	86

TABLE XV.

Births for the whole District, with Percentage of Illegitimacy.

DISTRICT.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Totals.	Percentage of Illegitimate.
	M	F	M	F		
Allendale ..	43	52	6	2	103	7·7
Bywell ..	199	170	7	4	380	2·8
Chollerton ...	47	46	9	3	105	11·3
Hexham ...	41	38	4	3	86	8·1
Totals ...	330	306	26	12	674	5·6

NUISANCES, &c.

The following Notices have been issued to Owners and Occupiers, during the year, by the Sanitary Inspector :—

To provide proper trapped gullies to drain inlets	47
,, Cement floors and walls of ashpits and privies	2
,, Disconnect wastepipes from drains	2
,, Remove manure and other offensive matter from premises ...	6
,, Protect water supply at public watering places	5
,, Relay choked and defective drains	15
,, Not to deposit any sewage, ashes, or other refuse, on or by the side of public roads	36
,, Remove offal, &c., from butcher's premises	2
,, Provide proper drainage to house premises	20
,, Connect drains to main sewers	1
,, Remove ashpit and privy refuse from side of public roads ...	4
,, Ventilate main sewer	5
,, Provide manure pits	2
,, Cleanse underground sinks	17
,, Submit plans of buildings in course of erection	1
,, Open out newly laid drains for inspection	2
,, Cleanse course of open sewers	5
,, Repair defective yard surfaces	6
,, Limewash walls of outoffices and other buildings	21
,, Properly cleanse ashpits and privies	119
,, Repair defective w.c. fittings	1
,, Cleanse manure pits	8
,, Provide and fix rain water spouting to dwelling houses ...	10
,, Ventilate ashpits and privies	7
,, Cleanse public watering places	5
,, Provide soil pipe ventilating shafts to w.c.	3
,, Disconnect rain water pipes from drains	17
,, Cleanse urinals	8
,, Repair defective water pipe fittings	1
,, Cease keeping animals to be a nuisance	1
,, Remove manure deposited near water course	1
,, Provide ashpit and privy accommodation	19

To remove ashpit refuse from river edge	17
,, Repair delapidated ashpits and privies	7
,, Provide drainage to piggeries, byres, and stables	9
,, Fix ventilating shafts on drains	6
,, Cleanse cesspits	4
,, Remedy dampness in houses	1
,, Remove outlet of drain, from the side of public road	2
Cases of Disinfectants supplied	92
Schools, dwelling houses, bedding, furniture, and premises, disinfected and fumigated	30
Drains tested by smoke test and otherwise	63
Drains found defective	10

Part of main sewers relaid at Allendale, Corbridge, Haydon Bridge, and Stocksfield.

DIARIES.

There are 64 registered Dairies in the Union, this being on increase of 2 over last year's number.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been visited at various times by the Sanitary Inspector, and found to be kept in a fairly clean state.

1898.

PLANS PASSED AT THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS.

18th January.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—Plans of Two Semi-detached Villas, on the Belmont Estate, The Bank, for Mr. G. Parker, Manager, Co-Operative Society, Haydon Bridge, per Mr. E. Henderson, Joiner, Haydon Bridge.

HUMSHAUGH.—Plans of Additions and Alterations to a Farm House, at Heatheridge, for Mr. Clayton, the Chesters, Humshaugh, per Mr. Errington, Estate Office, Chesters.

15th February.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans of proposed Alterations and Additions to a Villa, at the Mount, for Mr. R. Emmerson, Jun., Brewer, &c., Newcastle-on-Tyne, per Mr. Simpson, Architect, 12, Grey Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

HUMSHAUGH.—Plans for Six Houses, at the West End, for Mr. J. Douglas, Farmer, Humshaugh, per Mr. Welton, Surveyor and Land Agent, Fore Street, Hexham.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—Plans of a Byre, proposed to be built at Grindon Farm, for Mr. Clayton, the Chesters, Humshaugh, per Mr. Errington, Estate Office, Humshaugh.

OVINGHAM.—Plans of Alterations and Additions to Croft House, for Mr. G. Fenwick, per Mr. Dyson, Architect, 61, Grey Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

BYWELL.—Plans of proposed Additions and Alterations to Bywell Hall, Stocksfield, for Mr. Beaumont, M.P., per Mr. Balden, Estate Office, Dilston.

PRUDHOE.—Plans of Two Houses on the Building Sites of the Duke of Northumberland, for Messrs. Patterson & Tweddle, per Mr. Lowdon, Architect, West Wylam, Prudhoe-on-Tyne.

15th March.

HORSLEY-ON-TYNE.—Plans of a Dwelling House, at the Schools, West End, for his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, per Mr. Temperley, Manor Office, Tynemouth.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of Six Houses and a Shop, at the Northern Property Developement Co. Ltd, Estate, for Mr. Nixon, 21, Coniston Avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne, per Mr. Crass, Architect, 71, De Grey Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans of proposed Additions and Alterations to Howden Dene, for Mr. Straker, per Mr. Oswald, Architect, 33, Mosley Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ALLENDALE.—Plans of Alterations and Additions to the Riding House; and Plans for converting a Building into a Cottage, at the Brewery, for Mr. J. Walton, per Mr. Shield, Architect, West Side, Allendale.

CHOLLERTON.—Plans of Three Cottages, at Gunnerton, for Mr. W. Welton, Mollow Burn, Wark on-Tyne.

12th April.

ALLENDALE.—Plans of a proposed new Farm House, at High Knock Shield, for Mr. J. Glendinning, per Mr. Ritson, Architect, Partridge Nest, Bardon Mill.

WYLAM.—Plans of a House, at the Hagg Points, for Mr. Fawcett, per Mr. Westgarth, Architect, Craerook, County Durham.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans of a Cellar, under a front shop in Middle Street, for Mr. Patterson, Chemist, per Mr. G. Robson, Builder, Corbridge-on-Tyne.

OVINGTON.—Plans of a proposed House, near Ovington, for Mr. Bell, Harlow Hill, Stocksfield, per Mr. Common, Joiner, Horsley.

SANDHOE.—Plans of Additions and Alterations to a House, at the East End, Anick, for Mr. H. Cuthbert, per Mr. Portal, Estate Office, Beaufront Castle, Hexham.

Broomley.—Plans of a Stable and Wash-house, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. Brewis, per Messrs. Badenoch & Bruce, Architects, 55, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Hexham Low Quarter.—Plans of a proposed Gardener's Cottage, at the Linnel Mill, for Mr. Charlton, per Mr. Dixon, Architect and Surveyor, St. John Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

10th May

Acomb.—Ammended Plans of a proposed New Water Supply, for the Village, &c., per Mr. Dixon, Engineer, Newcastle on-Tyne. Plans of Four Semi-detached Villas, at East Oakwood, for Mr. Brown, Oakwood House, Hexham, per Mr. Adamson, Architect, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Haydon Bridge.—Plans of a Tool House, at Lodge Cottage Shooting Box, Brokenheugh, for Mr. Joicey, per Mr. Robinson.

Wylam.—Plans of a proposed Stable, at the Inn, North Wylam, for Mr. Lynch, Innkeeper, per Mr. Westgarth, Architect, Cracrook, County Durham.

7th June.

Horsley-on-Tyne.—Plans of Additions and Alterations to the School and Out-offices, at the West End Schools, for his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, per Mr. Temperley, Manor Office, Tynemouth.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—Plans of a Stable, Hayloft, and Out-offices, at John Martin Street, for Mr. J. Reed, Allerwash, per Mr. E. Davidson, Surveyor, Haydon Bridge.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of Temporary Sewer Outlet, on the Merryshields Estate, Stocksfield, for the Northern Property Devolopement Co. Ltd., per Mr. Anderson, Architect, Royal Arcade, Newcastle-on-Tyne; and Plans of proposed Two Semi-detached Villas, on the Merryshields Estate, for Mr. T. Middleton, Mickley Bank, per Mr. Graham Engineer, Stocksfield-on-Tyne.

ACOMB.—Plans of a proposed Villa, at East Oakwood Building Estate, for Mr. Whitehead, Oakwood Cottage, per Mr. Adamson, Architect, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

HEXHAM LOW QUARTER.—Plans for a Byre and Hayloft, at the Inn, Dipton Mill, for Messrs. Tucker, Brewers, Gateshead-on-Tyne, per Mr. T. Charlton, Builder, the Juniper, Hexhamshire.

5th July.

CHOLLERTON.—Plans of Alterations and Additions to the School, at Barrasford, for the Managers, per Armstrong & Knowles, Architects, Grainger Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ACOMB.—Plans of a Stable and Coach-house, at Oakwood House, for Mr. Brown, per Mr. Adamson, Architect, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

BROOMLEY.—Plans for Six Cottage Semi-detached Villas, on the Painshawfield Estate, for Messrs. Wakenshaw & Partners, per

Watson & Scott, Surveyors, Dean Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Plans of a House and Shop, at Mount View Terrace, Stocksfield, for Miss S. Robson, per Mr. Leslie Anderson, Architect, Royal Arcade, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

2nd August.

CHOLLERTON.—Plans of proposed Sewage Tanks, at Colwell, for the Parochial Committee.

30th August.

BROOMHAUGH.—Plans of Additions to House, at the East End Terrace, for Mr. Heslop.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans of a Stable, at the Golden Lion, Hill Street, for the Exors. of the late R. Gibson, Scotswood-on-Tyne.

ACOMB.—Plans of proposed Re-building the Queen's Arms Inn, Main Street, for Mr. Mellins, per Mr. Dunn, Architect, 2, Simonside Terrace, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

27th September.

PRUDHOE.—Plans of Re-building the Dr. Syntax Inn, Main Street, for Mr. Laing, Brewer, Newcastle, per Mr. Burns Dick, Architect, 55, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Plans for Additions to

House on Main Road, for Dr. McCoull, per Mr. Reed, Stocksfield. Plans for a Drill Hall at the West End, for the Northumberland Volunteers, per Captain Hedley.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—Plans of Lodge, Farm Cottages, Stabling, Laundry, Out-offices, Drainage, and Sewage Disposal, at Langley Castle for Mr. Bates, per Mr. H. Taylor, Engineer, Amen Corner, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

25th October.

PRUDHOE.—Plans of a proposed House and Shop, on the Building Sites of the Duke of Northumberland, East End, for Mr. R. Walton, per Mr. Bedlington, Architect, 23, Eldon Square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

HUMSHAUGH.—Plans of Extension of the Water Mains to Wayn Rigg and Park Terrace, for the Parochial Committee.

22nd November.

ALLENDALE.—Plans of Additions and Alterations to a House, in the Market Place, for Mr. M. Stephenson, per Mr. Armour, Architect, 16, West Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

CORBRIDGE.—Plan of a W.C., at the House of Mr. Robson, Front Street, per Mr. G. Robson, Builder, Corbridge.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—Plans of Additions and Alterations to a House, at Brigwood, for Mr. G. Tyzack, Tyne Villa, Haydon Bridge.

Horsley-on-Tyne.—Plans of Out-Offices at the Schools, for the Duke of Northumberland, per Mr. Temperley, Manor Office, Tynemouth.

20th December.

Acomb.—Plans of a Cottage at the Riding, for Mr. Henderson, per Mr. Oswald, Architect, 33, Mosley Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Plans of a Villa Residence at the Oakwood Estate, for the Rev. S. Savage, Rector of Hexham, per Hicks & Charlewood, Architects, Grainger Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne,

Corbridge.—Plans of a Drill Hall, near the Round Field, St. Ellen's Street, for the "I" Company Northumberland Fusiliers, per Captain Hedley.

Wylam.—Plans of a Gate House, at the North End of Bridge, for the Wylam Bridge Company. Plans of a Stable and Coach House, for Major Blackett, per Mr. Bedlington, Architect, 23, Eldon Square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Broomley.—Plans of a Villa Residence, on the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Messrs. Walkenshaw & Partners, per Watson & Scott, Dean Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Plans of Two Semi-detached Villas, on the Painshawfield Estate, for Mr. T. F. Herdman, per Mr. Leslie Anderson, Architect, Royal Arcade, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Allendale.—Plans of a Poultry any Calf House, at Chapel House Farm, for Mr. G. G. Lee, Percy Gardens, Tynemouth, per Mr. Fairlamb, Joiner, Allendale. Plans for converting an Outhouse into Dwelling Rooms, at Leadgate, for Mr. W. Fairlamb, Post Office, Allendale.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

During the year, and over the whole District, there has been 24 Deaths which have been notified to the Coroner, and on which was held 14 Inquests, and on the remaining 10 he did not consider an Inquest need be held, but gave a Certificate as to the probable cause of death. There was 1 held in the Allendale District; 5 in the Bywell District; 3 in the Hexham District; and 3 in the Chollerton District. Of the cases in which a Certificate was given, 4 were in the Allendale District; 5 in the Bywell District; and 3 in the Chollerton District. The cause of Death in the cases where an Inquest was held were—Suicides, 2; Accidental Drowning, 1; Injuries, 6; Heart Disease, 2; Burns, 1; Overlaying, 1; Consumption, 1. Those in which a Certificate was given were—Apoplexy, 2; Injuries, 1; Epilepsy, 1; Diarrhœa, 1; Heart, 3; Bronchitis, 1; Burns, 1; Peritonitis, 1. There has been returned only 8 Deaths as against 19 last year in which there had been no Medical Attendant nor enquiry. These cases are getting fewer and fewer year by year, and this is the lowest they have ever been. The causes of death were returned as—from Bronchitis, 2; Influenza, 1; Diarrhœa, 1, Teething, 1; Heart Disease, 1; Apoplexy, 1; and Old Age, 1.

It will be seen the number of Deaths for the year have been 411, which gives a Death-rate on the population of 15·4. Although these numbers are greater than those of last year, which were—Deaths, 462, and the Death-rate 14·2 per thousand, they cannot be considered very high, especially when the various characters of the district, and the various character of the employments in it are taken in consideration. The Diseases in which there was the greatest number of deaths over those of last year were Diptheria, 9 more; Diarrhœa, 18 more; Pneumonia, 9 more; and Tabes Mesenterica, a child's disease, 13 more. Of the rest of the numbers some are rather more, in others they are less than last year, and in none of the diseases are they such as to call particular attention to them, either as to characters or numbers.

Zymotic Diseases.—The numbers of these returned have been greater in every case than last year, the Scarlat Fever cases most especially, and this principally in the Bywell Sub-District, in which alone there was 272 cases, and the principal part of which were confined to Mickley Square. There has also been 5 cases of Continued Fever; 4 of Small Pox; and 1 of Croup, none of which were reported last year. There has been 22 deaths out of the whole number of 535. From Diptheria, 10; Scarlat Fever, 6; Typhoid Fever, 4; Continued Fever, 1; and Croup, 1; which is at the rate of 4·1 per cent. of the whole of the Infectious Diseases.

Scarlat Fever.—As will be seen the number of this is a great deal more than last year, in fact, 164 more, and the greatest increase has been in the Bywell Sub-District, where there has been double the number of the whole of the rest of the district together. It has principally affected West Wylam, Prudhoe, Low Prudhoe, and Mickley Square. The latter has been very much affected. The School at Low Prudhoe was closed on account of it from Aug. 19th till Nov. 28th; that at Mickley from it and threatened Diptheria, from Nov. 28th till Jan. 9th; that at Eltringham, to prevent the threatened spread of it and Diptheria, from Dec. 5th till Jan. 9th. They were re-opened at the time stated, though there has been several cases reported at Mickley Square since then. There can be no doubt as to the Mickley Square School being a centre of infection; and from the danger of the spread of Diptheria, of which there had been two or three cases, there could be no doubt as to the policy of closing the school, indeed, it could not have

been carried on in any case under the circumstances. There is no doubt whatever that the disease has been very much spread by the utter disregard which the people have in going in and out of each others houses, where the disease is; and another undoubted source of infection is attending the funerals, and the tea drinking afterwards. The disease has certainly been of a very mild character, as out of the 376 cases which have occurred in the whole district, there has been only 6 deaths, which is at the rate of 1·5 per cent.

Diptheria.—Of this there has been 58 cases, 51 of which have been in the Bywell Sub-District; 5 in the Chollerton Sub-District; and 2 in the Allendale Sub-District. This is double the number there has ever been before. There has been 10 deaths from it, 9 of which were in the Bywell District, and 1 in the Chollerton District. In the number of those reported in the Bywell District, 21 were at Halfway Houses, and the number of deaths there were 6, of which 3 were in one house, and 1 in each of the three other houses. There has in no instance been a case where there has been more than one death in one house, except that in which the 3 unfortunately occurred. The disease was not only in isolated houses, but in isolated parts, that is, it did not occur in a number of houses closely together in one part of the district, nor, until it got to Halfway Houses did it assume in any way an epidemic form. How the first case arose here could not be clearly made out, but it spread from one to another, and there can be no question or doubt about it that it was spread from personal contact and utter disregard as to the danger of allowing the children to play together when in a state of infection, they and adults as well going without let or hindrance into each others houses. It is not possible to isolate a child from the rest of these in a house where there is only one living room, and a sort of pantry kitchen downstairs, with two rooms and an unenclosed recess on the landing upstairs, as in these houses, but that is not the point. How the disease was spread is as has just been said. Another unquestionable source is the attendances at the funerals, and the entertainment of friends afterwards, either in that or a neighbour's house, or perhaps in both. It may be remarked, the privy, of which there is one to each house, is at the top of the garden right away. There are 4 unenclosed ashpits for the row of 12 houses, across the road. The channel for the slops is an open one, and extends the whole length of the row, and has

always been found in a fairly well flushed and clean state, and the water is from the public supply. The epidemic, fortunately, has now ceased, as the last two cases reported were on Dec. 3rd and Dec. 8th.

Typhoid Fever.—Of this there has been 21 cases, of which 18 were in the Bywell Sub-District, the whole of which were isolated ones, with the exception of two instances at Riding Mill, where there was two cases reported from No. 1, The Terrace, the one a boy aged 5, and this may have been an imported case; afterwards a servant was reported, who had probably got it through attending the boy. There was nothing in the sanitary state of the house to account for the first case, and the water supply was the one used for the whole of the Terrace, and is a good one. The other case was at the Railway Station House, where there was first two boys reported on Nov. 9th, afterwards three more were reported. Here the surroundings were in every way apart from The Terrace, in regard to water and everything. The drains were examined and found imperfect, and they have been attended to. There was another case at the Brick Cottages, here the water supply was again different, and had no connection with the others. There were defects about the privy and ashpit and one of the drains, which might have been the cause. There has fortunately been no death from it here. There has, however, been 4 deaths altogether, 2 of which cases were imported ones. 1 case had been imported from Heddon-on-the-Wall to Horse Close—a girl aged 19 who had been in service. Another, a man who followed the employment of a tailor at Newcastle was sent home to Wall, where he died. The other cases were a girl aged 18, who contracted the disease by attending another case at Wall; and the last was a man at Newton, aged 59, a complicated case, where the surroundings were very favourable, and where probably the Typhoid symptoms had supervened upon other things.

Measles.—There has been a great many cases of this over the whole of the district. How many cases there may have been there can be no idea formed, as they are not on the Notifiable List. Some idea may be formed from the Schools at Allenheads having been closed from it from Feb. 3rd till Feb. 28th; those at Humshaugh from March 7th till April 4th; those at Bingfield from March 31st to May 2nd. It also affected Hardhaugh School in the beginning of February, when there was also a case or two of Scarlat Fever. It was however not considered necessary to close altogether, but to exclude certain scholars, and so, if possible,

keep it open; this was done, and the duties carried on. The same occurred at the Butt Bank School; there were a great many cases there in the beginning of January, seriously affecting the attendance at the School, but it was also in this case not considered closure would be of benefit in controlling the numbers, therefore in it also the duties were carried on. From the large number of cases there has been, it has been of a singularly mild type, as there has only been 2 deaths from it in the whole district

Whooping Cough.—There has been a large number of cases over the whole of the district. It has not been of such a character as to be termed epidemic in regard to numbers, all affecting one particular place, but as has been said, the numbers were very considerable, There were a good many cases amongst the scholars attending the Butt Bank School in December, but it was not considered beneficial to close, and the duties were carried on. It is very fortunate it has been of such a mild character, there having been only 4 deaths from it, as against 2 of last year. It is peculiar, but no matter how many deaths may occur from this complaint, the parents never seem to think much about it, and take no precautions, such as they would in some diseases, against others others taking it.

Chicken Pox.—These has been a considerable number of cases of this, affecting the children attending the School at Ordley and Whittington, especially the latter, but by the isolation of certain families it soon died out, and the duties were continued.

Small Pox.—Of this there has been 4 cases, all adults. In 3 of the cases the origin was clearly traced, in the other one no definate source could be arrived at. The cases, with the exception of the last, which was a very mild one and treated at home, were removed to the workhouse hospital; all of them had been vaccinated, and recovered. All who had been in contact with them were vaccinated at once, and the houses, &c., disinfected, and anything which could not be so destroyed. It is satisfactory to note there was no further spread from any one of the cases.

Erysipelas.—Of this there has been 70 cases returned. They have been isolated ones, and in no case has it been found to have been communicated from one to another. It has been of a very mild character, and there has been no deaths from it. There has been a great reduction in the number of cases during the last quarter of the year.

Influenza.—There has been a considerable number of cases, but as was remarked last year, not of an epidemic character. There was however 6 deaths returned from it, which is the same number as last year.

Isolation Hospital.—There is now every prospect of one being erected in the Eastern portion of the district, where arrangements are being made for that purpose, on a suitable place between Stocksfield and Mickley Square. It would certainly have been of the greatest service in the present outbreak of Diptheria, as the cases could have been promptly isolated, and its spread checked.

Closure of Schools.—Little more or different can be said than was last year in regard to this. It is doubtful in many places in the district whether the closure is of benefit in checking the spread of an epidemic, but if it is to be so, it is the best in every respect, both from a sanitary and educational point, that it should be done at once, as by doing so an earlier start can be made with a good attendance. The greatest care is always used in this matter, and whenever, either by isolation of certain families, or a certain portion of the district, this can be avoided, it is always done.

Dwellings.—There has been 67 new houses erected during the year, which is 17 more than that of last year. There continues to be the greatest want and demand for houses suitable for the requirements of a working man his family, one with not less than four, but preferably five rooms, and when any of these are built they are eagerly sought after. As is known, the great majority of houses in the pit villages are what is termed back to back, and of course, no through ventilation; are over-crowded and not suited for a family; and was it not for the cleanly habits of the mining community, the health of the district would not be as satisfactory as it is. To erect a house such as is mentioned as suitable costs a good sum, which naturally demands a larger rent to be paid, and in many cases is the cause of sub-letting, and again over-crowding. But there had perhaps better be a little over-crowding in a good house, than a good deal in a bad one. This is a condition which will right itself as the number of houses suitable for the larger and mixed growing up families are erected, and of such, a number are going to be erected by the Company at Mickley Square.

Sewarage.—The system of Sewarage which the Council has decided to adopt, and the septic treatment of the sewage from Leyburn Terrace, Halfway Houses, and Beaumont Cottages, will answer the desired purpose well, the position of the place chosen being a very good one in regard to the gradients, &c.

Water Supply.—Hedley-on-the-Hill.—The supply to this place has been completed. This must prove a great boon, as it was very badly supplied indeed, the domestic supply having to be brought from considerable distances, and often scanty in quantity then.

Acomb.—The scheme which was laid before and enquired into by the Local Government Board, for the supply of the village and terraces, has been approved of, at a cost of £1145.

North Farm, Horsley,—A new supply has been provided for this.

Haydon Bridge.—A new supply has been provided for Tofts Farm, East Mill Hills Farm, and Plunderheath Cottages, near Haydon Bridge. The supply to Haydon Bridge itself is still being enquired into and considered by the Committee, and proceeded with as expeditiously as possible under the circumstances. There is no doubt the village is in great want of a better supply.

New Ridley.—The supply to this place has been before the Council several times, and in the Annual Reports. An engineer has now been engaged to survey and give a report on a scheme which will not only supply this place, but Painshawfield Estate and High and Low Mickley. If the report be favourable, and the scheme carried out, it will be of immense importance and advantage to the district.

Riding Mill.—There has been a new supply got to the blacksmith's shop and house here. There is also a new source being enquired into which will supply the station and cottages, also the school and cottages. This, if accomplished, will be a very great benefit, as it is much needed.

Wheat Hill, Wood Hall, and Edge House.—I would wish to call attention again to this supply, which has been brought before the notice of the District Council several times. There has nothing been done as yet. These three places are very much in want of water indeed, in fact, very seriously so. In anything like a droughty season there is not a drop to be had. A supply can be easily got which will supply the whole three farms.

Slaley.—The supply here was reported upon before, as to the quantity principally, and was referred by the District to the Parish Council. The latter deepened some of the wells, which increased the supply, and reported themselves as being satisfied. The Medical Officer was directed to see it again after a time had elapsed. This was done on two occasions, and on both, the people said there had been no scarcity, and they were now satisfied. It will, however, yet be kept under observation, and reported to the District Council if necessary.

Gentlemen,

In again laying the Annual Report before you, it is with satisfaction such a favourable one can again be presented. The Death Rate is a little higher; and the Birth Rate is a little lower. It was hoped the Death Rate would have continued getting lower, as it as been doing. It is now 15·6, which is only 1·4 more than last year. The increase is only a small one, and certainly will prove only a temporary one, and is easily accounted for by the unusual number of deaths in certain diseases, and which will be seen referred to in the Report. It will be seen there has been an enormous increase in the Infectious Diseases, and this has been principally in the Scarlat Fever. There has also been a large number of Measles and Whooping Cough. Taking the district as a whole, it is in a most satisfactory state, and the improvements which have been made by the Sanitary Authority, and those in contemplation, both in Water Supplies and everything, are both many and great, and cannot fail to have a most appreciable effect on the future health and sanitary statistics.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. BOUSTEAD.

CHRISTOPHER ARMSTRONG, PRINTER, HEXHAM.